



USAID
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Agriculture and Food Security

SEED AID PRACTITIONERS BRIEFS

The Seed Aid Practitioners Briefs offer advice on how to sustain and strengthen seed systems during disaster response and recovery periods. To date, the technical information in the briefs addresses issues such as introducing new seed varieties, protecting agrobiodiversity, and exploiting market opportunities during periods of acute and chronic stress. Specific response tools are also offered, including *methods for assessing seed system security, guidelines for learning-focused evaluations, and checklists to ensure quality in seed-aid proposal development*. With USAID/OFDA funding, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and Catholic Relief Services compiled these briefs.

Please see: http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/africa/practice_briefs.htm

AGRICULTURE AND SEED GUIDANCE

Populations at risk of food insecurity experience heightened vulnerability when they are dependent on outside interventions for survival. In rural areas, self-sufficiency usually depends on the ability of farmers to produce sufficient food for themselves and their families. Farmers must have some measure of seed security or economic and physical access to adequate quantities of appropriate, quality seeds prior to the planting season. As with food security, the three variables central to the attainment of seed security are availability, access, and utilization. The Agriculture and Seed Guidance highlights some of the major issues for interventions. Please refer to:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/resources/pdf/seed_guidance.pdf

LIVESTOCK GUIDANCE

Livestock owners in many developing nations are at serious risk of losing animals to natural and human-caused disasters. Lack of food, dehydration, disease, severe cold weather, or fighting and looting can result in devastating losses to animal herds. Situation-specific, rather than generic, responses must be developed to address the diverse reasons for animal loss. Relief agencies' responses to disasters must often incorporate a range of multi-sectoral interventions. The USAID/OFDA Livestock Guidance highlights some parameters for response. Please see:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/resources/pdf/livestock_guidances_11-19-02.pdf

LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS (LEGS)

LEGS are posted at <http://www.livestock-emergency.net/>

EMERGENCY PEST AND PESTICIDE MITIGATION (AELGA)

Emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) threaten food security and jeopardize the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and their ability to recover from these shocks. In addition, obsolete and dangerous pesticides used to control ETOPs compromise human health and environmental safety. External assistance is often needed to control major pest outbreaks and upsurges and dispose off obsolete pesticides. USAID/OFDA provides technical and financial assistance and coordinates efforts to mitigate pests and pesticides' impact on vulnerable populations and affected countries. USAID/OFDA also disseminates the most current information on ETOPs to help prevent, mitigate, and control pests and pesticides. The website for the Assistance for Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Abatement project, formerly known as the Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA), provides detailed information on ETOP activities. Please visit: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/